HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL COURTS**

Read pages 271 to 274 and answer all of the questions below regarding the passage.

1. What act did the first Congress pass in 1789 in order to create the district courts and courts of appeals in the United States? (p. 271)

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2. How many district courts exist in the United States? How many cases do these courts handle per year? What is the minimum number of district courts in each state? What is the maximum number in larger states? (p. 271)

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3. What level of the federal court system is directly above the District Courts? How many of these courts exist in the United State of America? (p. 272)

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4. What other name is often given to Courts of Appeals, since each court has a particular geographic area, or circuit, from which all of their cases are appealed? (p. 272)

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5. Where are appeals from certain special federal courts and agencies of the executive branch appealed? (p. 272)

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6. How many judges sit on the Court of Appeals? Do they consider evidence? Do they cross-examine witnesses? Do they give direction to a jury? (p. 272)

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7. What are the possible outcomes of a case before the Court of Appeals? What evidence do the justices consider when making the decision? Does the Court of Appeals make any decision regarding the guilt or innocence of the defendant in the case? (p. 272)

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8. Study the map on page 273. Then, answer the questions below:

8A. What Circuit of the Court of Appeals is the state of Virginia in?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8B. In terms of geography, which of the Courts of Appeals is largest?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8C. Why are the Circuit Court Districts in the Northeast so much smaller in terms of states?

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9. What is the main purpose of the Supreme Court? (p. 273)

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10. In what instances does the Supreme Court claim original jurisdiction? (p. 273)

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11. What are the characteristics of federal court judges which help them to do their work? (p. 274)

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12. How are all federal court judges selected for their jobs? How long do they serve? How can they be removed from their positions? (p. 274)

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